Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

31 July 2006

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

Last bulletin: July 27, 2006

Conditions Report

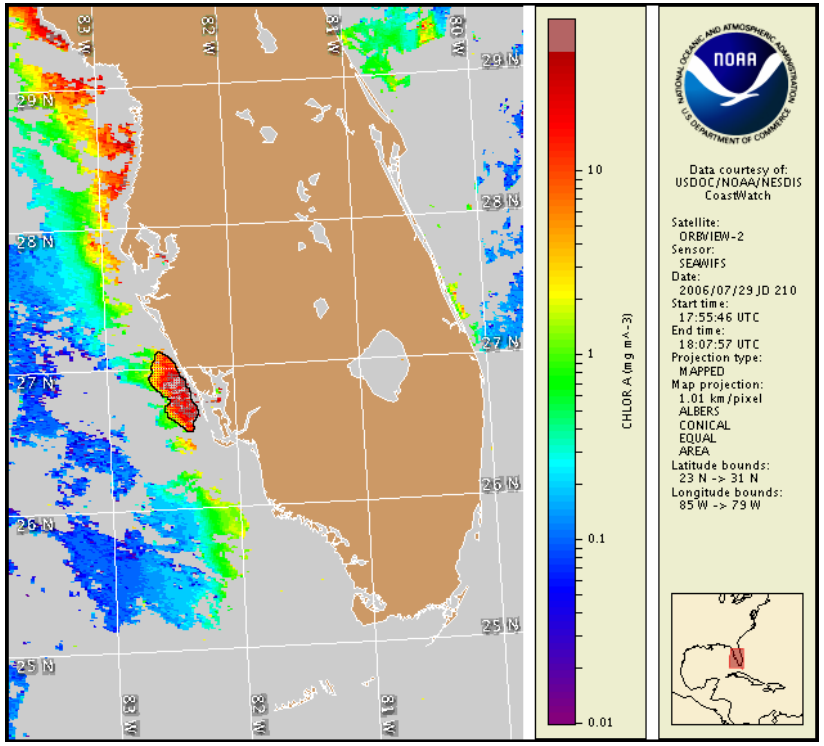
A harmful algal bloom has been identified from southern Sarasota to northern Collier County. Patchy low to moderate impacts are possible from southern Sarasota to northern Lee County today through Wednesday, with higher impacts possible Tuesday afternoon. Patchy very low to low impacts are possible along the coast from southern Lee to northern Collier County today through Thursday. Patchy low to moderate impacts are possible along bay shores in the Pine Island Sound and San Carlos Bay region today through Thursday.

Analysis

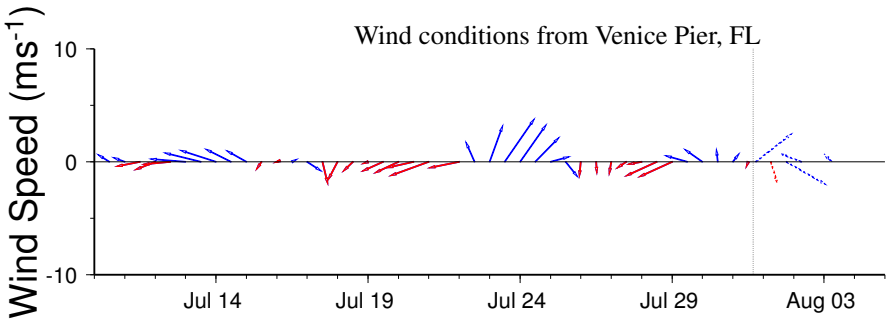
A harmful algal bloom persists from southern Sarasota to northern Collier Counties. Present imagery (7/29) is predominantly obscured by clouds, however elevated chlorophyll levels (10-30μg/L) are continually visible offshore from Venice to Captiva Island, with concentrations highest at approximately 26°39'N, 82°24W and 26°59'N, 82°30'W (more southern portions are obscured). Low concentrations of *K. brevis* were identified last week in Collier and Charlotte Counties at Lely Barefoot Beach (previously at background concentrations), Seagate, Placida Harbor, and the mouth of Gasparilla Pass (FWRI, 7/26-27). Low to medium concentrations were identified in and at the mouth of San Carlos Bay, Lee County, with low concentrations found subsurface (7/27). In Sarasota County, very low concentrations were found onshore at Manasota Beach, with very low to medium concentrations 1-6nm offshore (7/25). Dead fish have been reported over the last few days in Gasparilla Sound and Placida Harbor in Charlotte County, and at Wiggins Pass in Collier County. The bloom has likely migrated slightly northward (up to 20km) since the previous bulletin issued on 7/27.

Variable, onshore winds may increase the potential for impacts in the afternoons today through Wednesday. Continued northerly transport of the bloom is possible as a result of seasonal geostrophic flow conditions. Intensification is not expected through Wednesday.

~Fisher, Urizar

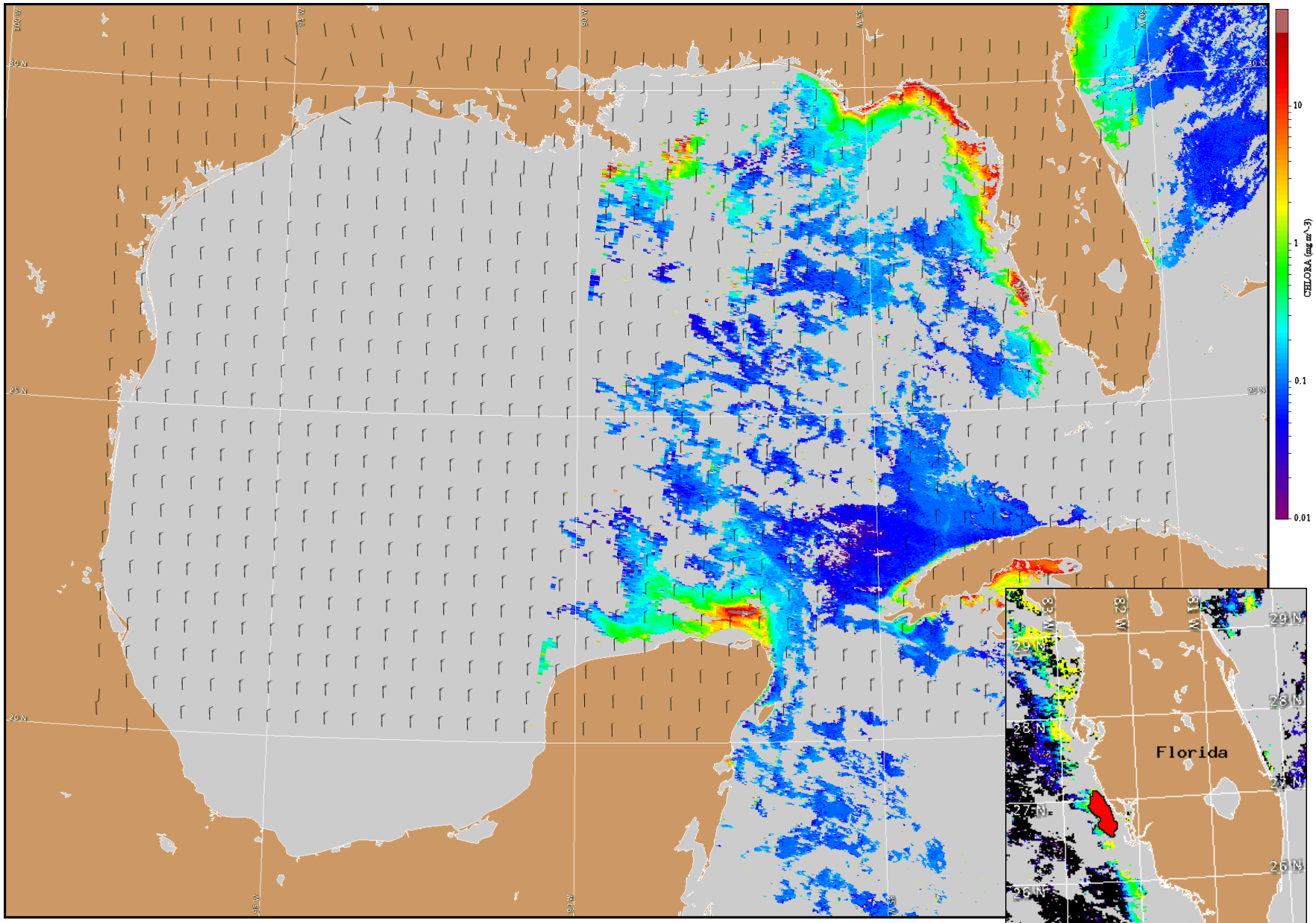


Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s).



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

SW Florida: Mild (5kts, 3m/s) southerlies today becoming northwesterly, then variable through Tuesday. Westerly winds (5-10kts, 3-5m/s) Tuesday afternoon will shift northerly and clock around to southeasterly winds before becoming variable Wednesday afternoon. Easterly winds forecasted Wednesday night into Thursday at 5-10kts, 3-5m/s.



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for August 1, 2006 06Z.

Verifi ed HAB areas shown in red. Other bloom areas shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).